



## Harford County Commission on Veterans Affairs Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Brown at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room, 220 S. Main Street, Bel Air, Maryland.

**Attending\*:** Bob Brown, Hayden Anthony, Lisa Brown, Janice Cassady, Jim Castelli, Bill Elliott, Art Kaff, Bill Montgomery, Pam Silcox, Cindy Smith, Deacon Vic Petrosino

**Excused:** Scott Kearby, Patricia O'Keefe, Larry Owens, Mike Ray, Councilman McMahan (liaison)

**\*Note:** Julie Bryson & Pearl Zimmerman from Charles County attended the meeting via teleconference. The Charles County Board of Commissioners recently approved the establishment of a county veteran's commission. Julie & Pearl requested the teleconference to get a sense of the functions of a veteran's commission.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Brown. Prayer was led by Deacon Vic.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes from the April HCCOVA meeting were sent to commission members for review prior to the May meeting. No corrections were put forward. Jim Castelli motioned for approval of the minutes and Pam Silcox seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by commission members.

### **Opening Comments from Appointed Members:**

Chairman Brown – introduced Cindy Smith to the commission members. Cindy has been nominated to fill Mary Moses' position on the commission.

Hayden Anthony – announced several upcoming veteran-focused events:

- Applying for Federal Employment Workshop: APG ACS Bldg, May 16<sup>th</sup> 9 am – 1 pm
  - APG Military Appreciation Luncheon: Richlin Ballroom, May 17<sup>th</sup> 11 am – 1:30 pm
- Hayden will give the table cloth and items for display to Bob Brown.
- Fort Meade Community Job Fair: Club Meade, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 9 am – 2 pm

Janice Cassady – registration for summer classes at Harford Community College has started, with classes beginning at the end of May. No recent updates on the administration of the GI Forever Bill (Senate Bill 509).

Pam Silcox – announced 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Bel Air Bomb Techs Memorial Gathering on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 5 pm at Independent Brewing Company. The event benefits the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Warrior Foundation.

Deacon Vic Petrosino – responded to request to meet with Gold Star family due to husband's (Navy veteran) Stage 4 cancer diagnosis. Mr. Garrity shared that he has gathered photographs of all Maryland service member killed in the Vietnam War. His goal is to share/display these photographs in a public setting such as posters at bus stops. Deacon Vic encouraged other members to make contact.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Veterans Resource Fair 2018 – Bob Brown**

- Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 1:30 pm at Bel Air Armory
- This year, subcommittees were formed for major areas:
  - Marketing – newspapers, TV, flyers, social media
  - Facilities – set-up, teardown, permits, equipment
  - Food/Drinks – coordination, pricing, serving, supplies
  - Programming – guest speaker, singer, color guard, raffle, VIP invites, vendors
- Save the Date flyer in progress

### **APG Retiree Appreciation Day**

- Information fair will be held at MWR Building on APG on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 12 pm
- APG requested HCCOVA sponsor a table at the fair
- Bob Brown, Bill Montgomery & Lisa Brown will represent the HCCOVA at the fair

### **Independence Day Parades**

- Commission members will participate in the Bel Air Independence Day Parade, held on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Mike Ray will serve as coordinator/POC for the Bel Air parade.
- Bob will contact Johnny Boker to check status of participating in the Havre de Grace Independence Day Parade, held on the Sunday prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July (July 1<sup>st</sup>).
- Commission members will sign-up for marching in parade(s) at the next HCCOVA meeting

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Input for Annual Report**

- Chairman Brown requested input from commission members for HCCOVA annual report, including the number of hours spent on projects & outreach activities.
- Bob will consolidate information & present report at Harford County Council meeting scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Memorial Day Events**

- The towns of Bel Air & Havre de Grace will host Memorial Day ceremonies on May 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Idea brought forward that in the future the HCCOVA participates in these events (wreath laying, information table) in the future. No decision was made.

### **Sub-committee Updates**

- Education
  - Senator Harris hosted military service academy fair at Bel Air HS on May 1<sup>st</sup> with high attendance & interest.
  - UMBC is offering veterans scholarships for their Cybersecurity academy. More information is at UMBC Training website.
- Veteran's Benefits
  - State legislature passed tax relief bill (Senate Bill 312) for military retirement income, with new level of \$15,000 tax free
  - Harford County Council passed property tax discount for veterans over 65 years old. Veterans must apply every year to receive 20% discount.
  - TAP (Transition Assistance Program) at APG is being revamped – Soldier for Life
- Technology & Social Media/Employment
  - Art Kaff continues to post issues & information important to veterans on the HCCOVA Facebook page, including job vacancies.
  - Bill Elliott offered to work with any veterans who contact the commission seeking employment information since he is the career counselor at HCC.
- Outreach
  - Hayden is working with a veteran from Baltimore County who needs assistance with a variance request to build a wheelchair ramp for his house. Bob sent the veteran information on how to apply for a VA grant.
  - The Army Field Band will be performing May 18<sup>th</sup> at Harford Community College.
- Legal
  - Art received & responded to several requests for legal assistance, connecting veterans with people that could assist them.

### **Upcoming Events**

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 6:30 pm.
- Harford County Gold Star Memorial dedication – Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup> 2-3:30 PM
- Red shirt Fridays – wear a red shirt on Friday's in support of veterans

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by Lisa Brown